

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 have been amended and claims 17 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 are independent claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 15, 17, 18 and 20.

The Applicants also respectfully note that the present action does not indicate that the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's next communication include an indication as to the acceptability of the filed drawings or as to any perceived deficiencies so that the Applicants may have a full and fair opportunity to submit appropriate amendments and/or corrections to the drawings.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 15, 17, 18, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and cancelled claims 17 and 20. Therefore claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and

allowance of claims 1-16, 18 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C

By: _____

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